

STOOD UP

The meeting place
was Taco Bell
the time agreed was seven
at a quarter until
Teddy felt in his bones
what he had felt since morning
the Purvis boys had ditched him
gone on to Bakersfield

The sinking
in his stomach
called for more than a burrito
but he forced one down
and wanted to cry
ashamed when two hot tears
squeezed past his will
and mingled with pinto beans